

LATE TESTIMONY



TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
FROM: PAMELA LICHTY
RE: HR 67 *REQUESTING STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO ABIDE BY STATE LAWS RELATING TO THE MEDICAL USE OF MARIJUANA - STRONG SUPPORT*
MARCH 12, 2009, 10:15 AM, Room 309

Chair Hanohano and members of the Committee, the Drug Policy Action Group strongly supports this resolution which requests state and local law enforcement officers to abide by state laws regarding medical use of marijuana.

This is a resolution which by all rights should not be necessary. The state's law permitting the medical use of cannabis has been in place since 2000. Yet there are still law enforcement officers at state and local level who do not abide by either the letter or spirit of the law. This may be because they disagree with the law, as has been explicitly stated for example by Maui county Police Chief Phillips. Nonetheless, these officers are sworn to uphold the law - even if they do not agree with it.

There have been many instances of raids on registered patients where their supplies of permitted amounts of medical marijuana have been seized.

This body saw fit to pass this compassionate law nine years ago. The time is past due when law enforcement officials should accept this fact and adhere to the law of the land.

We urge this committee to pas this resolution out preferably with stronger language. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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LATE TESTIMONY

From: Rev. Nancy Harris [punarasta@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 7:08 PM
To: PBStestimony
Subject: House Resolution 67

Categories: Green Category

Please enact House Resolution 67. I find it sad that such a bill is needed, and yet it is. Patients who have never been recreational marijuana users who find themselves in need of medical marijuana are particularly vulnerable, as they are usually among the most severely ill patients, and they usually have the self-image of law abiding citizens. For such a patient, it is exceptional cruelty to have to deal with criminal charges, arrest, or even insensitivity on the part of law enforcement officers. In fact, if it were up to me, I would rewrite paragraph 6 to read:

"BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, that state and local law enforcement officers are requested to *cheerfully and compassionately* abide by state laws regarding the medical use of marijuana; and..."

Please keep the severely ill in mind, and vote with kindness.

God Bless,

Rev. Nancy Harris